



Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree, MLS

We closed the Law Library on Friday, April 22, in order to host a meeting with all the county law librarians in Ohio. One purpose of the meeting was to showcase "Cool Tools." We each spoke about tools we're using in our libraries that might be of benefit to our colleagues. These days we tend to dread another meeting, but it is always refreshing to get together with my counterparts and get inspired by all their great ideas. All libraries need to remain relevant in today's tech age, and these collaborative meetings help all of us find new, exciting ways to engage our patrons. Be on the lookout for some cool tools in the Franklin County Law Library.



Thanks to everyone who donated children's books during our first National Library Week Amnesty Book Drive. More than 30 books were donated in exchange for overdue fines. Donated books were given to the Legal Aid Society of Columbus.

Be sure to register for our Brown Bag Lunch program this month. Elaine Buck will discuss adoption issues in Ohio amidst all the recent changes in the law. Participants may receive one general CLE credit for attendance. Advanced registration is required.



Adoption Issues in Ohio

May's Brown Bag Lunch Program

Attorney Elaine Buck will discuss the changes in Ohio Adoption Laws in recent years. She will discuss topics such as the Supreme Court's ruling on same-sex couple adoption, open adoption, and step-parent adoption. Plus she'll answer your questions

Join us **Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 12:15**. Reservations for all classes are mandatory. Call or stop by the Circulation Desk to register. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch to the class. Participants may receive one general Ohio CLE credit. [See our flyer for more information.](#)

Ohio Legal Resources

June's Brown Bag Lunch Program

The Law Library offers numerous resources pertaining to Ohio laws and legislation. These resources come in many formats. Learn about the different resources and the best format in which to use them from our Reference Librarian.

Join us **Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at 12:15**. Reservations for all classes are mandatory. Call or stop by the Circulation Desk to register. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch to the class. Participants may receive one general Ohio CLE credit. [See our flyer for more information.](#)

Law Library History: *Out of a Life in the Law*

Jennifer Jones

Each year, the Franklin County Law Library offers a "Hidden Gems" session to introduce patrons to lesser-known Library resources. In preparation for the session, our Librarians seek out hidden treasures in our archives, and this year, we found a true gem -- a signed copy of the book *Out of a Life in the Law* (Gates Legal Publishing, 1957), a collection of poetry that examines the life of a lawyer.

The author of the collection, Mr. David Perris, was a successful attorney from Cleveland who devoted countless hours to legal research. He graduated from Western Reserve University's law school at only 19 years of age and became a sole practitioner, working out of the Standard Building. He was well known in the Cleveland Bar Association, and he argued before the United States Supreme Court several times. He also held stock in the Cleveland Law Library Association and frequently researched there. He was an astute legal scholar, and at times large firms retained him as a legal researcher.

In addition to practicing law, Mr. Perris taught equity for the John Marshall Law School. He also published at least one textbook as well as several articles, such as "Mistakes of Lawyers in Famous Cases" (in *Trial Tactics*, Matthew Bender, 1932) and "Common Sense in the Courts" (in *Ohio Law Reporter* vol. 31, 1930). However, he only published one book of poetry.

Mr. Perris practiced law until his death in 1959 at age 77; he came home after a day in court and died in his sleep early the next morning. Mr. Perris and his wife, Katherine, had three sons. One

son remained in Cleveland and managed WEWS TV; the other two sons relocated to California. None of Mr. Perris' children entered the legal profession, but his granddaughter, Judge Elizabeth L. Perris, recently retired from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Oregon. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, she handled the first of many bankruptcy cases filed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese as a result of claims of sexual abuse, and she mediated Detroit's bankruptcy.

Though Mr. Perris was an accomplished attorney, we at the Library have been most impressed with his gift for writing poetry that captures the experiences he found "touched with feeling too deep for mere prose, or oblivion." He writes that he recorded his experiences "[so] that members of the profession and their loved ones may know what it costs in soul for one to be a lawyer and not just a mere legal mechanic" (Foreword).

Special thanks to Mr. Perris' son, Allen Perris, and his granddaughter, Katherine Perris Torgerson, for providing us with information beyond what we were able to find in our books.

Here is an example of one of our favorite poems by David Perris.

Law Library

I

Here where a million minds have
 Built like a coral reef,
A repository of learning, brought forth from
Study and contention in every vicissitude
 by needs,—
Historical and economic—
Of the ages,—
 I have spent a myriad of hours,
Searching sometimes in the new, and sometimes
 in the shelf-worn books,
A way of defense, a remedy for a wrong,
Entrusted to me by busier men to find.

II

And I who have trod the floors till they
 Wore my soles to tatters,
Can see the ghosts of men long departed,
Who like me sought a precedent to guide a Judge
 Or to make a solution
 Fitting new conditions.

III

Often I have heard laughter by practical
 men, who called
My appointed task a visionary goal;
And sometimes I could join, when
Some thorough, documented brief
 from months of research, was ignored



By a Court, and other men with the
same material won their cause, when
their cause reached the same Court.

IV

I have been puzzled, by conflict in decisions;
I have been puzzled, by the
Legislatures that hastily
swept away anchored law.
And yet with all the times
The library of Law seemed to fail me,
I struggled on, Knowing I will struggle on...
Deeming it better
To console my Soul with the thought,
That I better believe
In the Evidences of Law,
Than the arbitrary dictates of Men.

By David Perris

In Out of a Life in the Law

Gates Legal Publishing Co., 1957

Education of Children with Disabilities Online Legal Reserach Guide

Susanna Marlowe

The Franklin County Law Library has a new online legal research guide called [Education of Children with Disabilities : Federal and State Laws](#). This new guide presents books in the Franklin County Law Library discussing special education legal issues. It also links to federal statutes and CFR sections that govern how states must set up their special education programs. The guide also contains a chart that links to the free internet versions of the special education laws and regulations of all fifty states and the District of Columbia. If the unannotated internet versions of the codes are not adequate for your research, the Franklin County Law Library has the editorially enhanced statutes and regulations available for searching in the Library on Westlaw and Lexis Advance.

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